

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide comprising:
  - a) the sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or 3~~; or
  - b) a polynucleotide which exhibits an identity of more than 50% with the polynucleotide having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or 3~~; or
  - c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes, under stringent conditions, with the polynucleotide having the sequence as depicted in SEQ ED NO:1 ~~or 3~~; or
  - ~~d) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2; or~~
  - ~~e) a polynucleotide which exhibits an identity of more than 50% with a polynucleotide which encodes the polypeptide having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2; or~~
  - ~~f) a polynucleotide which hybridizes, under stringent conditions, with a polynucleotide which encodes the polypeptide having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2; or~~
  - ~~g) d)~~ a polynucleotide which differs from a polynucleotide having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1 due to the degeneracy of the genetic code;
  - ~~h) e)~~ a polynucleotide which is a fragment of a polynucleotide as described in a) to ~~g) d)~~ and is at least 6 nucleotides in length.
2. Withdrawn.
3. (Original) A vector or expression system which contains at least one of the polynucleotides as claimed in claim 1.

4. (Original) A host cell which harbors the vector or the expression system as claimed in claim 3.
5. (Original) A method for preparing a polypeptide as claimed in claim 2 using a host cell as claimed in claim 4.
6. – 12 Withdrawn.
13. (Currently Amended) A vaccine comprising:
  - a) a polypeptide as claimed in claim 2; ~~or~~
  - b) a vector as claimed in claim 3; or**
  - c) an antibody as claimed in claim 6.**
14. - 19 Withdrawn.